GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
GENE POOL BANKS FOR SEEDS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would open Gene Pool Banks to preserve the variety of crops and fruits in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether non-availability of good quality seeds is hampering the yield of crops and fruits in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make availability of good quality seeds to the farmer?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources has a National Genebank located at New Delhi which holds about 2,87,000 germplasm accessions (~2,80,000 accessions in seed Genebank at −20 degree Centigrade, 1500 accessions in In vitro Genebank at 25 degree centigrade in tissue culture and 5,600 accessions in Cryo-Genebank at −152 to −196 degree Centigrade). Medium term storage facilities also exist for germplasm at 7 regional stations of the Bureau. In addition, some other ICAR institutes and SAUs also have medium term storage modules. Besides, the germplasm material is also maintained in Field Genebanks at several crop-based institutes in case of perennial crops.

(b): Availability of good quality seeds as per assessment of demand by the States is being ensured.

(c): Two Zonal review meetings and National Conferences are organized with the State Governments and all the Seeds Corporations for Kharif as well as Rabi crops separately during the year to assess the requirement and availability of seeds for all the major crops and tie-up arrangements are made so as to make availability of good quality seeds to the farmers. Government of India provide assistance to State Governments for production/distribution of good quality seeds to the farmers under Macro Management Mode for Cereals, under Integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palms and Maize (ISOPOM) for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palms and Maize. Transport subsidy is also given on movement of seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal and hilly areas of West Bengal.